

National Wildlife Refuge Offices

- ❶ DeSoto 712/642 4121
- ❷ Driftless Area 319/873 3423
- ❸ Mark Twain
Wapello District 319/523 6982
- ❹ Neal Smith 515/994 3400
- ❺ Union Slough 515/928 2523
- ❷ Upper Mississippi River
McGregor District 319/873 3423

Law Enforcement Office

- ❻ Des Moines 515/284 4125

**Private Lands/
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Office**

- ❹ Iowa 515/994 3400

The mission
of the
**United States
Fish & Wildlife
Service** is
“working
with others to
*conserve,
protect,
and
enhance*
fish and wildlife
and their habitats
for the continuing
benefit of the
American people”



Introduction

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service's nearly 93 million acres include 514 National Wildlife Refuges, 78 Ecological Services field stations, 66 National Fish Hatcheries, 50 wildlife coordination areas, and 38 wetland management districts with waterfowl production areas.

The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts.

The Service also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes federal excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies. This program is a cornerstone of the nation's wildlife management efforts, funding fish and wildlife restoration, boating access, hunter education, shooting ranges, and related projects across America.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Jamie Rappaport Clark has indicated four conservation goals she would like the Service to focus on in the coming year. These goals are:

- Strengthening our ecosystem approach to fish and wildlife conservation
- Lifting the conservation of migratory birds to a higher level
- Leading the effort to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species
- Setting the course for the future of America's National Wildlife Refuge System





Regional Highlights

Great Lakes - Big Rivers

*Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota,
Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin*

Regional Goal

Our Regional goal is to work shoulder to shoulder with the states, tribes and our many other partners. In this way, we will achieve our vision of ***a better place for fish and wildlife*** and the people who enjoy them.

1998 Regional Facts

- Employment: 959 people
- Managed Acres: 1.2 million
- The Fiscal Year 1998 Budget for Regional Service activities totals \$58.2 million
- 4,962 volunteers donated 224,952 hours to help with Service projects
- 104,325 school children participated in Service educational programs
- Over 6.8 million people visited Service facilities throughout Region 3. Of these:
 - 534,179 hunted
 - 1,017,142 fished
 - 3,579,339 visited to view wildlife

Refuge Program Facts

- 54 National Wildlife Refuges and nine Wetland Management Districts
- More than 240,000 acres in waterfowl production areas

Other Regional Programs and Offices

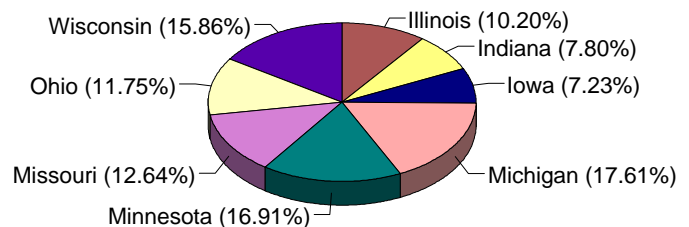
- Five National Fish Hatcheries
- 11 Fisheries stations
- 10 Ecological Services offices
- 21 Law Enforcement offices

Federal Aid Program

In Fiscal Year 1998, the Region's Federal Aid Office managed \$87.5 million to help strengthen sport fish and wildlife restoration programs throughout the states within Region 3.

Federal Aid Apportionments FY1998

Region 3 States' Share of \$87.5 Million:



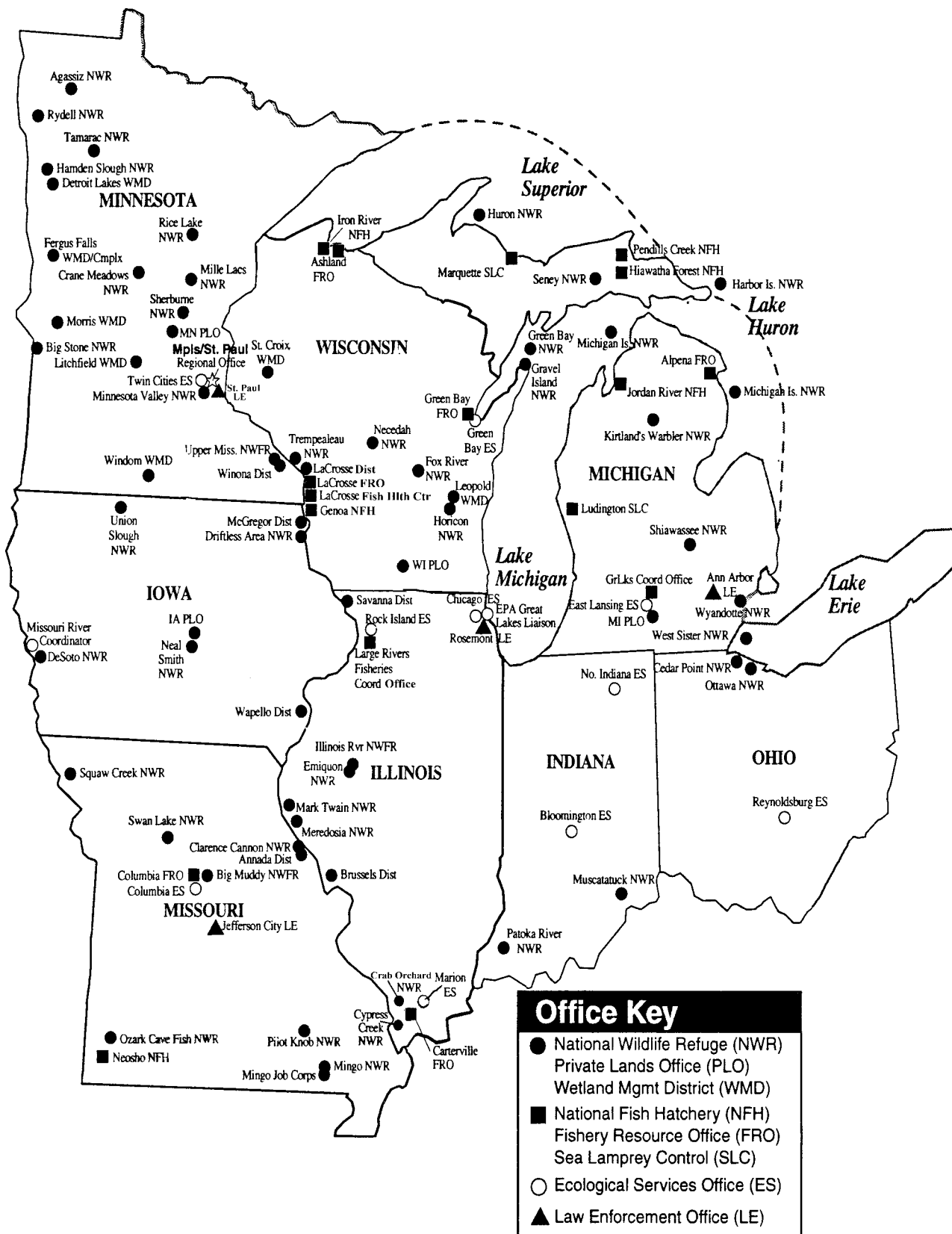
The Region is Committed to:

- Healthy fish and wildlife trust species (migratory birds, endangered species and interjurisdictional fish) populations, and habitats that support them
- Providing the public with quality hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, and other recreational opportunities on Service lands
- Expanded partnerships, which offer innovative opportunities to enhance the nation's fish and wildlife resources
- A clearly defined U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service organization dedicated toward employee excellence, reflecting the nation's rich diversity and providing quality service and decision-making closer to the resources in our trust



Region 3

Great Lakes - Big Rivers





Iowa

State Highlights

1998 Iowa State Facts

- Employment: 54 people
- The Fiscal Year 1998 Resource Management budget for Service activities in Iowa totals \$2.9 million
- 382 volunteers donated 13,672 hours to help with Fish and Wildlife Service projects

National Wildlife Refuge Facts

- Six National Wildlife Refuges and one Wetland Management District in Iowa total 106,036 acres
- In 1998, 1,400,045 people visited Refuges in Iowa. Of these:
 - 78,890 hunted
 - 219,591 fished
 - 796,792 people visited to view wildlife
- 16,946 school children participated in Service educational programs

Federal Aid to State Fish and Wildlife Programs

- In 1998 Iowa received:
 - \$3.7 million for sport fish restoration
 - \$2.6 million for wildlife restoration and hunter education

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

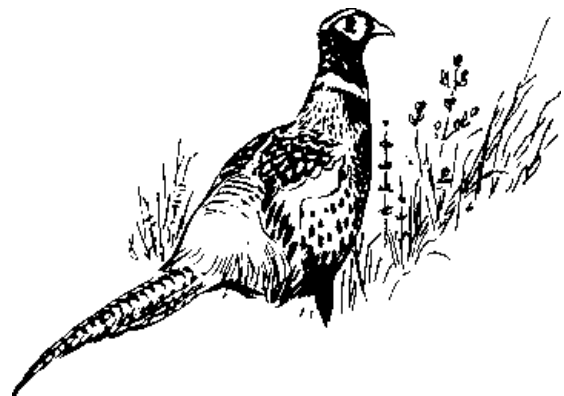
- By working together with private landowners and state partners, over 1,120 wetlands encompassing 6,276 acres were restored

Other State Projects

- North American Waterfowl Management Plan
- Migratory Bird Conservation
- Iowa River Corridor Project Lands

Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area

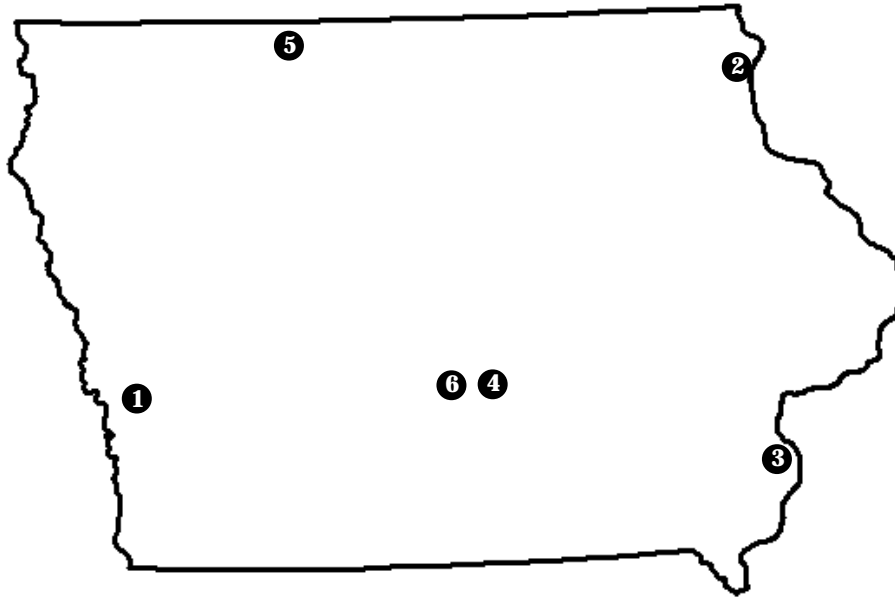
A total of 85 counties in Iowa and Minnesota have been included in a habitat preservation project designed to protect the remaining tracts of northern tallgrass prairie. Working with many private and public partners, the Service will work to protect up to 77,000 acres of the 300,000 acres of northern tallgrass prairie which remains -- less than one percent of the original acreage.





Iowa

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

DeSoto

National Wildlife Refuge

Contacting the refuge:

1434 - 316th Lane
Missouri Valley, IA 51555-7033
Phone: 712/642 4124
Fax: 712/642 2877
TTY: 1-800-735-2942 (Iowa Relay)
<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao>

Refuge Manager: George Gage
e-mail: george_gage@mail.fws.gov

*Located in southwestern Iowa,
approximately 20 miles north of
Omaha, Nebraska*



Refuge Facts

- Established: 1958
- Acres: 7,823 (3,499 in Iowa; 4,324 in Nebraska)
- Home of the salvaged 1860's steamboat Bertrand and its cargo
- DeSoto Lake renovated in 1985
- Responsible for managing Boyer Chute NWR, a 2,000-acre refuge (with approval for expansion to 10,000 acres) near Blair, Nebraska
- Provide Private Lands assistance in 18 Iowa counties

Natural History

- 300,000-800,000 snow geese stop during their annual fall migration
- Refuge lies in the fertile plain of the Missouri River Valley
- 788-acre DeSoto Lake is a former oxbow of the Missouri River

Financial Impact of Refuge

- 300,000 visitors annually
- \$65,449 in refuge revenue went to counties

Refuge Objectives

- Protect and enhance refuge habitat for endangered species
- Provide food, water, and cover for migrating waterfowl, especially snow geese
- Provide habitat for other migrating and resident wildlife
- Protect, preserve and display the steamboat Bertrand and its cargo
- Provide interpretation and environmental education opportunities

Management Tools

- Cooperative farming
- Grassland management
- Wetland management
- Forest management

Public Use Opportunities

- Auto tour route
- Visitor center, steamboat Bertrand display
- Midwest Interpretive Association headquarters and sales area
- Hunting and fishing
- Environmental education
- Wildlife observation
- Hiking trails

AMERICA'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES...
where wildlife comes naturally!





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Driftless Area

National Wildlife Refuge

Contacting the refuge:

P.O. Box 460
McGregor, IA 52157
Phone: 319/873 3423
Fax: 319/873 3803
TTY: 1-800-735-2942 (Iowa Relay)
<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao>

Refuge Manager: Vacant

*Located on scattered tracts
in northeastern Iowa*



Refuge Facts

- Established: 1989
- Acres: 618
- Refuge consists of small, scattered tracts located in Clayton, Dubuque, and Jackson counties
- Refuge is administered by the McGregor District of Upper Mississippi River NWR

Natural History

- Mainly *algific talus slopes* - an outflow of cold air and water from bedrock creates cool and moist conditions unique to slopes
- Essential habitat for many rare plants and land snails

Financial Impact of Refuge

- 600 visitors annually - visitation is limited due to endangered species management

Refuge Objectives

- Protect and enhance refuge habitat for endangered species
- Preserve and enhance populations of the endangered Iowa Pleistocene snail and threatened Northern monkshood
- Protect and preserve area populations of rare plants and land snails to prevent the need for future listing under the Endangered Species Act

Management Tools

- Habitat preservation
- Outreach and education
- Maintain sanctuary (closed areas)
- Biological monitoring
- Prescribed burning
- Law enforcement

Public Use Opportunities (designated areas only)

- Hiking
- Hunting and fishing
- Environmental education
- Wildlife observation





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Mark Twain - Wapello District *National Wildlife Refuge*

Contacting the refuge:

10728 County Road X61
Wapello, IA 52653-9477
Phone: 319/523 6982
Fax: 319/523 6960
TTY: 1-800-735-2942 (Iowa Relay)
<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao>

Refuge Manager: Kathleen Maycroft
e-mail: kathleen_maycroft@mail.fws.gov
Asst. Refuge Mgr.: Tim Julison
e-mail: tim_julison@mail.fws.gov

*Located along the Mississippi
River, in southwestern Iowa*



Refuge Facts

- Established: 1958
- Acres: 10,780
- Refuge is separated into four divisions: Louisa, Big Timber, Horseshoe Bend and Keithsburg

Natural History

- Major migratory bird corridor
- Habitat consists of bottomland timber, backwater sloughs and marshes
- Major wood duck production area

Financial Impact of Refuge

- 16,500 visitors annually

Refuge Objectives

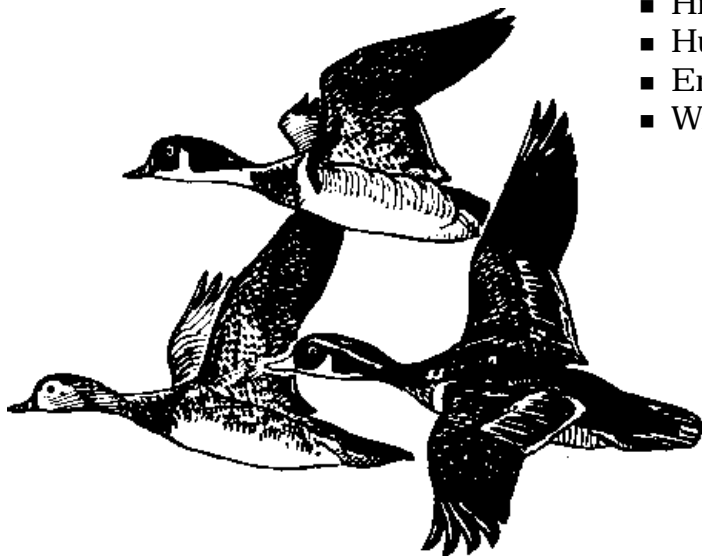
- Protect and enhance refuge habitat for endangered species
- Provide habitat for migratory birds and resident wildlife
- Protect and enhance habitat for wood duck production
- Provide wildlife-dependent recreation and public use opportunities

Management Tools

- Water management
- Outreach and education
- Wetland restoration
- Prescribed burning
- Law enforcement

Public Use Opportunities

- Hiking
- Hunting and fishing
- Environmental education
- Wildlife observation





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Neal Smith

National Wildlife Refuge

Contacting the refuge:

P.O. Box 399
Prairie City, IA 50228
Phone: 515/994 3400
Fax: 515/994 3459
TTY: 1-800-735-2942 (Iowa Relay)
<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao>

Refuge Manager: Nancy Gilbertson
e-mail: nancy_gilbertson@mail.fws.gov



*Located 20 miles east of
Des Moines on Highway 163*

Refuge Facts

- Established: 1991
- Acres: 5,065
- Planning to expand to 8,600 acres
- Prairie Learning Center opened in 1997
- Formerly named Walnut Creek NWR

Natural History

- Rolling tallgrass prairie and oak savannas bisected by Walnut Creek
- Habitat for prairie wildlife, rare grasses and flowers, and the endangered Indiana bat
- Bison herd reintroduced in 1996
- Elk reintroduced in 1998

Financial Impact of Refuge

- 200,000 visitors annually

Refuge Objectives

- Protect and enhance refuge habitat for endangered species
- Restore original tallgrass prairie and rare oak savanna habitat
- Protect and enhance habitat for native wildlife
- Provide wildlife-oriented recreational and environmental education opportunities for the public
- Conduct prairie research

Management Tools

- Reconstruction of native prairie
- Restoration of oak savannas
- Volunteer seed collection
- Community partnerships
- Reintroduction of native wildlife
- Prescribed burning

Public Use Opportunities

- Prairie Learning Center
- Environmental education
 - Hunting
 - Nature trails
 - Auto tour route
 - Hands-on prairie/savanna restoration workshops





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Union Slough

National Wildlife Refuge

Contacting the refuge:

1710 - 360th Street

Titonka, IA 50480

Phone: 515/928 2523

Fax: 515/928 2230

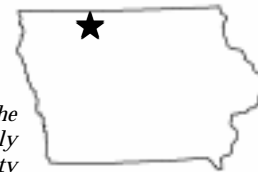
TTY: 1-800-735-2942 (Iowa Relay)

<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao>

Refuge Manager: Barry Christenson

e-mail: barry_christenson@mail.fws.gov

*Located just south of the
Minnesota border, approximately
50 miles west of Mason City*



Refuge Facts

- Established: 1937
- Acres: 3,309

Natural History

- Produces approximately 2000 wood ducks annually
- Remains of a pre-glacial riverbed
- Oasis for wildlife amid mainly agricultural land
- Trumpeter swan reintroduction site

Financial Impact of Refuge

- 6,500 visitors annually

Refuge Objectives

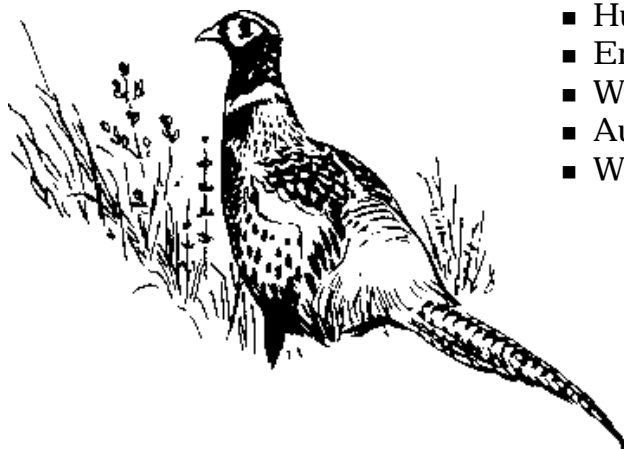
- Provide resting, nesting and feeding habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds
- Protect and enhance refuge habitat for endangered species
- Protect and enhance habitat for resident wildlife
- Provide recreational and environmental education opportunities for the public

Management Tools

- Native grassland restoration
- Outreach and education
- Wetland restoration
- Water management
- Prescribed burning
- Nest box program for wood ducks

Public Use Opportunities

- Hiking
- Hunting and fishing
- Environmental education and interpretation
- Wildlife observation
- Auto tour route
- Wildlife photography





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge *McGregor District*

Contacting the refuge:

P.O. Box 460
McGregor, IA 52157
Phone: 319/873 3423
Fax: 319/873 3803
TTY: 1-800-735-2942 (Iowa Relay)
<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao>

Refuge Manager: Vacant

*Located along the Mississippi
River, approximately 37 miles
south of the Minnesota border*



Refuge Facts

- Established: 1924
- Acres: 78,441
- Refuge covers Navigation Pools 9, 10 and 11
- Stretches 97 river miles along the Mississippi River

Natural History

- Major migratory bird corridor
- Habitat consists of bottomland timber, shallow basins, marshes, rivers, streams and agricultural land
- Located between river bluffs rising to 500 feet above the river

Financial Impact of Refuge

- 910,000 visitors annually
- Mississippi River annually contributes an estimated \$1 billion in recreational benefits to the region



Refuge Objectives

- Protect and enhance river floodplain for the benefit of fish, wildlife and people
- Provide habitat for migratory birds, fish, plants and resident wildlife
- Protect and enhance habitat for endangered species
- Provide interpretation, environmental education and wildlife-oriented recreational public use opportunities

Management Tools

- Cooperative farming
- Moist soil units
- Outreach and education
- Wetland restoration
- Sanctuary areas (closed areas)
- Law enforcement

Public Use Opportunities

- Hiking
- Hunting and fishing
- Environmental education
- Wildlife observation
- Boating and picnicking



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Des Moines

Law Enforcement Field Office

Contacting the office:

210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515/284 4125
Fax: 515/323 2910
TTY: 1-800-735-2942 (Iowa Relay)
<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao>



Office Facts

- Established: 1982
- The Des Moines Field Office is administered by the Jefferson City, Missouri Field Office

Law Enforcement Objectives

- To protect and conserve native and foreign wildlife through the enforcement of federal laws
- To promote and encourage voluntary compliance with federal wildlife laws through public education and the creation of a deterrent effect

Law Enforcement Priorities

- To investigate violations that have a significant impact on wild populations of federally protected species, such as those violations involving commercial exploitation and/or habitat destruction and modification
- To investigate violations that involve wild populations of species protected by state or foreign laws, with emphasis on interstate and foreign commercial exploitation
- To provide support and assistance to enforcement activities on Service lands, such as National Wildlife Refuges, and to other federal agencies on lands they oversee
- To promote awareness of, and support for, federal wildlife laws and the role of law enforcement in protecting our wildlife resources and heritage



Laws Enforced

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Duck Stamp Act
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- National Wildlife Refuge Act
- Lacey Act
- Airborne Hunting Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Archaeological Resource Protection Act
- African Elephant Conservation Act
- Wild Exotic Bird Conservation Act



Iowa

Private Lands Office

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Contacting the office:

9981 Pacific Street

Prairie City, IA 50228

Phone: 515/994 3400

Fax: 515/994 3459

TTY: 1-800-735-2942 (Iowa Relay)

<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao>

State Coordinator: Jim Munson

e-mail: jim_munson@mail.fws.gov



Local Coordination Offices

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Northeast | Upper Miss. NW&FR | 319/873-3423 |
| Southeast | Mark Twain NWR | 319/523-6982 |
| Southwest | DeSoto NWR | 712/642-4121 |
| Southcentral | Iowa PLO | 515/994-3400 |
| Northcentral | Union Slough NWR | 515/928-2523 |
| East | Upper Miss. NW&FR | 815/273-2732 |
| Central | Neal Smith NWR | 515/994-3400 |
| Eastcentral | Rock Island FO | 309/793-5800 |

Opportunities on Private Lands

Habitat Restoration

- Wetland and associated uplands
- Migratory bird habitat
- Watersheds of National Wildlife Refuges
- Tallgrass prairie
- Riparian and cold water streams

Technical Assistance

- Wetlands and Conservation Reserve Programs
- Wetlands conservation provisions
- Farm Service Agency
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Partnerships

- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Iowa private land owners
- Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Private conservation organizations

1998 Funding and Special Projects

- \$223,200 for habitat restoration and technical assistance

Wetland Restorations (1987-1998)

- 1,120 sites
- 6,276 acres





Iowa

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

Contacting the program:

BHW Federal Building
1 Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4056
Phone: 612/713 5433
Fax: 612/713 5286
TTY: 1-800-657-3529 (Minnesota Relay)
<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao>

Joint Venture Coordinator: Jim Leach
e-mail: jim_leach@mail.fws.gov



State Contact

Richard Bishop
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515/281 6156
FAX: 515/281 6794

About the "Plan"

- An international agreement signed in 1986
- Goal: return waterfowl populations to levels of the mid 1970's
- Achieve goal by restoring and protecting wetland and grassland habitat
- Includes 13 habitat joint ventures and two species joint ventures in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico

Partner Involvement

- Private landowners
- Nonprofit organizations
- Corporations
- Tribal, local, state and federal agencies

Habitat Accomplishments

- Restored over 9,100 acres of drained wetlands and converted grasslands
- Seeded retired cropland to native grasses
- Protected floodplain and stream habitat

Iowa Projects

Wetland and grassland restorations within:

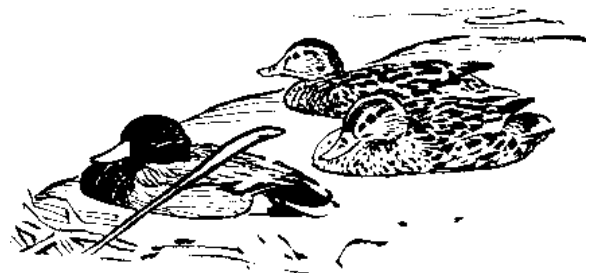
- Iowa Great Lakes watershed
- Lost Island - Trumbull Lakes watershed
- Eagle Lake watershed
- Cedar River watershed
- Federal, state and county lands
- Private lands statewide through voluntary participation

Financial Assistance

- Matching dollars from partners totaling over \$5.6 million
- North American Wetland Conservation Act grants; eight grants totaling over \$3.5 million
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan dollars totaling over \$360,000

Public Benefits

- Increased recreational opportunities
- Enhanced wildlife diversity
- Improved community relations
- Enhanced floodwater storage
- Improved water quality
- Broad coalition of partnerships supporting "voluntary" wetland preservation





Iowa

Federal Aid

Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration

Contacting the program:

BHW Federal Building
1 Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4056
Phone: 612/713 5130
Fax: 612/713 5290
TTY: 1-800-657-3529 (Minnesota Relay)
<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao>

Assistant Regional Director: Bradley Johnson
e-mail: bradley_johnson@mail.fws.gov



Where the money comes from

Federal excise taxes paid by hunters, anglers, and boaters on hunting and fishing equipment, a portion of the federal fuel tax, and import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.

What the money can be used for

Fish and wildlife research, habitat enhancement, technical assistance to private landowners, environmental review of public projects, land acquisition, operation and maintenance of areas and facilities, boating and angler access improvements, comprehensive planning for fish and wildlife resources, and hunter and aquatic education.

Number of participants and economic benefits to Iowa

■ Fishing
Number of anglers.....497,000
Fishing expenditures.....\$338 million

■ Hunting
Number of hunters.....368,000
Hunting expenditures.....\$212 million

How much money is involved (1998 apportionments)

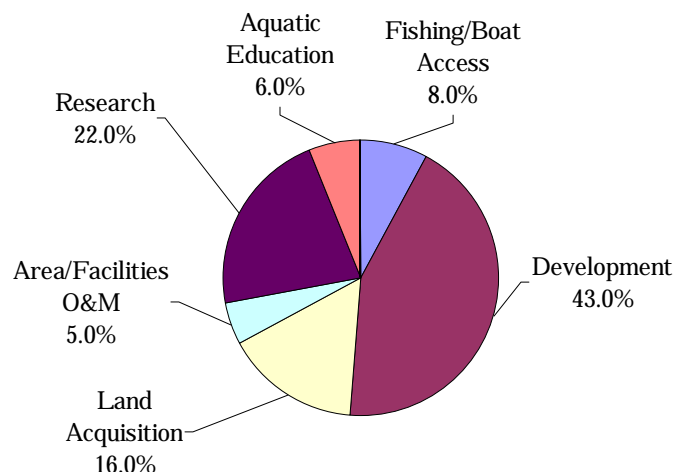
Sport Fish Restoration.....\$3.7 million
Wildlife Restoration.....\$2.6 million

Federal Aid Success Story

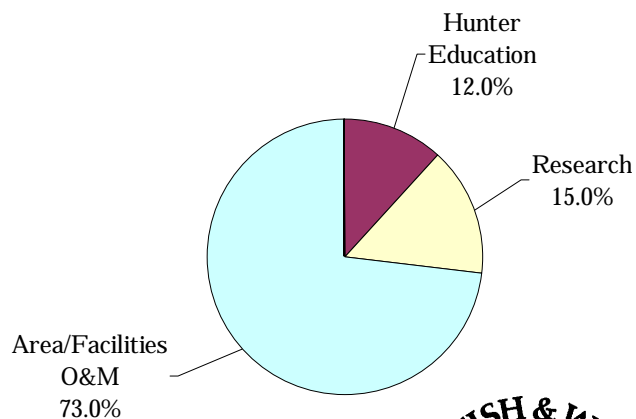
Iowa put Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds to work through their Turkey Trapping and Transplant Program. The state used its grant to trap and release wild turkeys on Iowa Wildlife Management Areas which increased populations of the wild birds.

Federal dollars at work in Iowa

Use of Sport Fish Restoration Funds



Use of Wildlife Restoration Funds





Iowa

Migratory Bird Conservation

Contacting the program:

BHW Federal Building
1 Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4056
Phone: 612/713 5458
Fax: 612/713 5286
TTY: 1-800-657-3529 (Minnesota Relay)
<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao>

Chief, Division of Migratory Birds: Steve Wilds
e-mail: steve_wilds@mail.fws.gov



Inventory and Monitoring

- Four Square-Mile Breeding Duck Survey
- Mourning Dove Call Count Survey
- Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey
- Waterfowl banding program
- Nongame bird inventories on National Wildlife Refuge System lands

Research

- Develop Geographic Information System (GIS) for migratory bird habitat conservation along the Upper Mississippi River
- Duck recruitment studies
- Study the effects of prescribed burning on prairie birds
- Development of wetland breeding pair and wetland density maps (thunderstorm maps)
- Study of the effects of habitat restoration on the abundance and productivity of nongame birds

Management

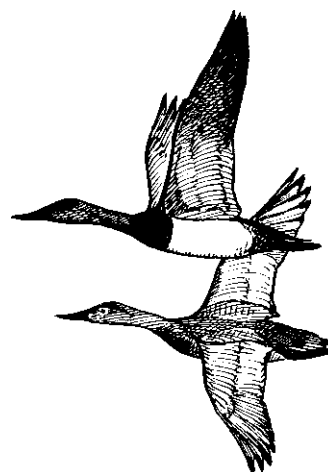
- Wetland protection, restoration and enhancement
- Grassland protection, restoration and enhancement
- Bottomland hardwood restoration
- Hunting regulations development
- Issuance of 18 types of migratory bird permits

Partnerships

- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Iowa State University
- Northwestern College
- U.S.G.S. Biological Resources Division
- Ducks Unlimited

Outreach

- International Migratory Bird Day
- Junior Duck Stamp Contest





Iowa River Corridor Project Lands

Service contacts:

Dick Steinbach
1704 North 24th Street
Quincy, IL 62301
Phone: 217/224 8580
TTY: 1-800-735-2942 (Iowa Relay)
<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao>

Jim Munson
Iowa Private Lands Office
9981 Pacific Street
Prairie City, IA 50228
Phone: 515/994 3400

State Contact:

Dick Bishop
Iowa DNR
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515/281 6156

Inter-Agency Program

The Service is engaged with other agencies in promoting biological diversity and natural river floodplain structure and function by purchase, restoration, and management of approximately 13,000 acres of a larger corridor project consisting of flood-prone farm land and floodplain wetlands along the Iowa River in Benton and Tama counties.

Approximately 10,000 acres have been purchased. Land acquisition by the Service on Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easements allow for the development, management, and protection of fish and wildlife resources. It also affords public use opportunities which would not be available on privately held WRP easement areas.

Project Goals

- Provide landowners a menu of land use and land management assistance options that represent sound floodplain management
- Manage public lands and easements in the IRCP to provide for the natural diversity and functions of the Iowa River system
- Utilize the characteristics of the floodplain to improve the Iowa River quality for fish and wildlife
- Provide an interpretive opportunity to illustrate floodplain system management

Project Goals (continued)

- Demonstrate and illustrate the economic outcomes of alternative floodplain management and land uses (NRCS)
- Utilize private and public partnerships to the fullest extent of each agencies' resources to accomplish the objectives

Management Responsibilities

- In addition to the involvement of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in obtaining easements to reduce annual crop loss in the floodplain, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is a partner with the Service in managing purchased lands
- Through a Memorandum of Understanding the Iowa DNR has assumed day-to-day management responsibility for the Service purchased lands
- The Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge staff works closely with the DNR on purchased land management issues and the Service's Iowa Private Lands Office in coordinating the overall IRCP area, particularly issues relating to privately-held easements





Iowa

Division of Realty

Contacting the program:

BHW Federal Building

1 Federal Drive

Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4056

Phone: 612/713 5410

Fax: 612/713 5290

TTY: 1-800-657-3529 (Minnesota Relay)

<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao>

Chief: William Swanson

e-mail: William_Swanson@mail.fws.gov



Ascertainment and Planning

- Before a new refuge is established, or the boundary of an existing refuge is significantly revised, the Service completes a detailed planning process to consider the effects of the proposed actions. A team of biologists and planners identify potential new lands to be acquired or preserved in some other way. The team works with local communities, landowners, state agencies, private conservation groups, and other interested parties to carefully plan where new lands and waters should be protected or restored for endangered species, migratory birds or other nationally important fish and wildlife conservation purposes.
- The Service is also required to prepare management plans for existing refuges. These Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) detail management direction on refuges for a 15 year period. The Planning staff ensures that all planning efforts comply with National Environmental Policy Act requirements.
- Public involvement is an important component of all these planning processes.

1998 Iowa Activities

- Land acquisition activities, using the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, occurred in the 17 county, 13,775-acre Iowa Waterfowl Production Area.

Land Acquisition

- The Realty Division's staff of appraisers and realty specialists works with landowners who have indicated an interest in selling their property, or property interests, to the Service. The appraisers determine fair market value and the realty specialists make the fee-title or easement purchases from these willing landowners. Lands are acquired by using funds from:
 - The Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (received from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps)
 - The Congressionally appropriated Land and Water Conservation Fund
 - Natural Resource Damage Assessments

Realty Management

- Once properties are acquired, the Realty Management staff is responsible for managing real estate records for over one million acres of Service owned lands throughout Region 3.

The Realty Management staff also:

- Works to assure that counties receive revenue sharing payments
- Processes non-funded land acquisition such as exchanges, donations, transfers and withdrawals
- Processes right-of-way permits across Service owned land
- Provides surveying capabilities for land acquisition and boundary retracement
- Produces cartographic products for Service use